Archie
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NO.72 JULY
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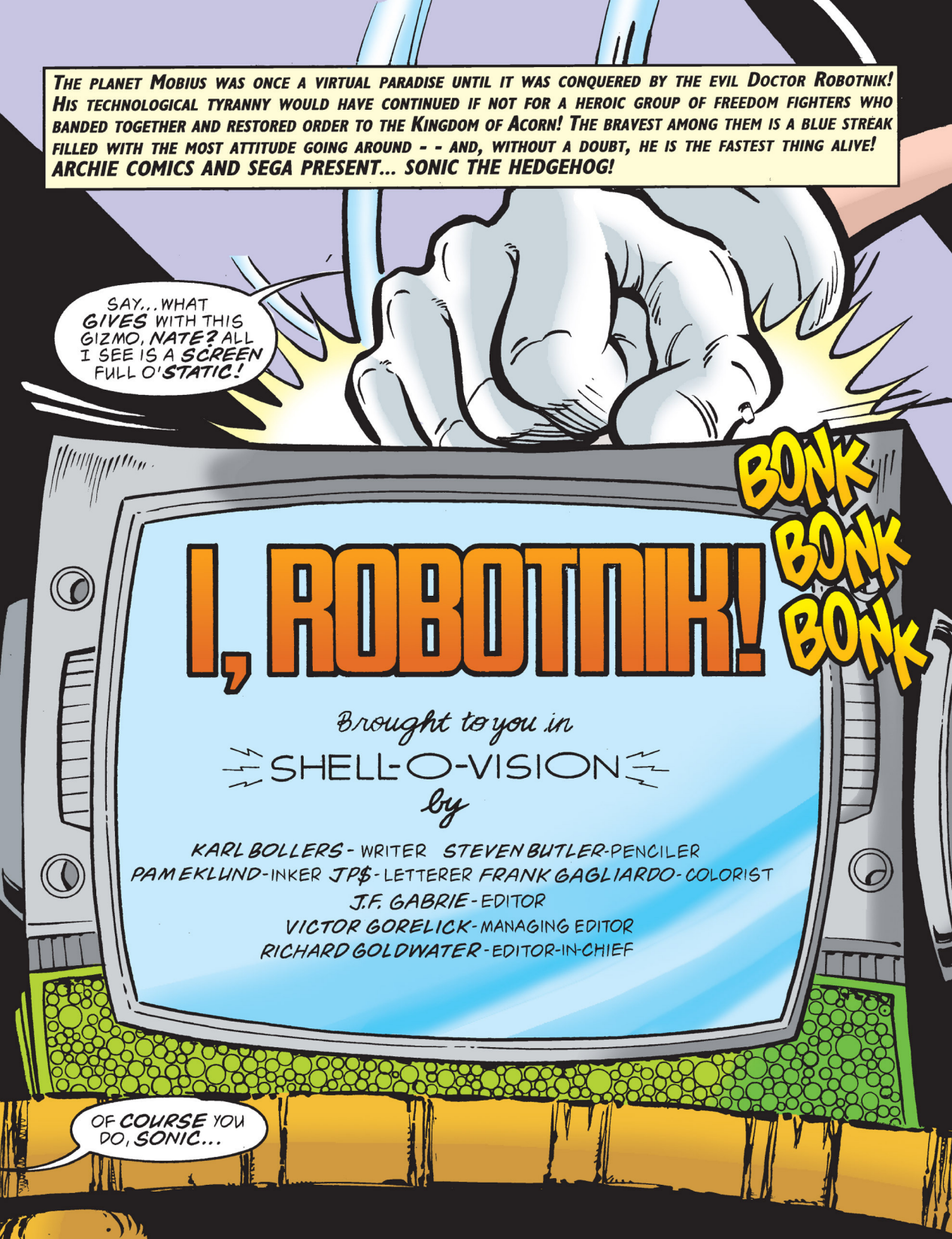
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
SPAZ HARO JSA


THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND - - AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
SAY... WHAT GIVES WITH THIS GIZMO, NATE? ALL I SEE IS A SCREEN FULL O' STATIC!
BONK BONK BONK
I, ROBOTNIK!
Brought to you in
SHELL-O-VISION
by
KARL BOLLERS - WRITER STEVEN BUTLER - PENCILER
PAM EKLUND - INKER JP$ - LETTERER FRANK GAGLIARDO - COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE - EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK - MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF COURSE YOU DO, SONIC...

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...MAINLY BECAUSE THIS HERE *TELECRATE* REQUIRES A *BROAD-CAST* TO BE SENT BEFORE IT SHOWS ANYTHING ELSE *BESIDES* STATIC!

AND *HOW* EXACTLY DID YOU AND *ROTOR* COME UP WITH THIS *DOOHICKEY* AGAIN?

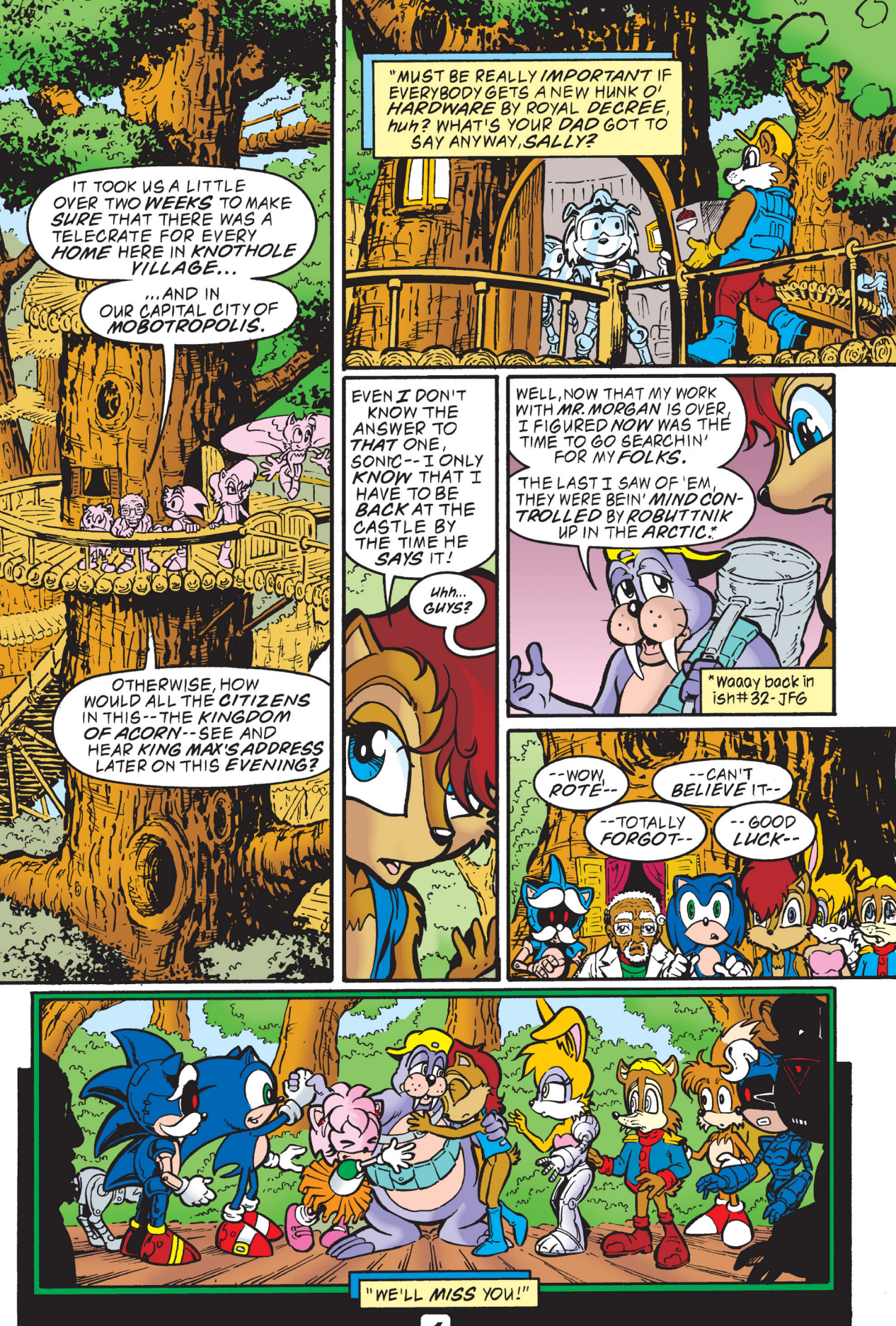
IT WAS *EASY* TO BUILD THIS AND *HUNDREDS* OF OTHERS BY COMBINING ROBOTNIK'S LEFTOVER *TECH*--

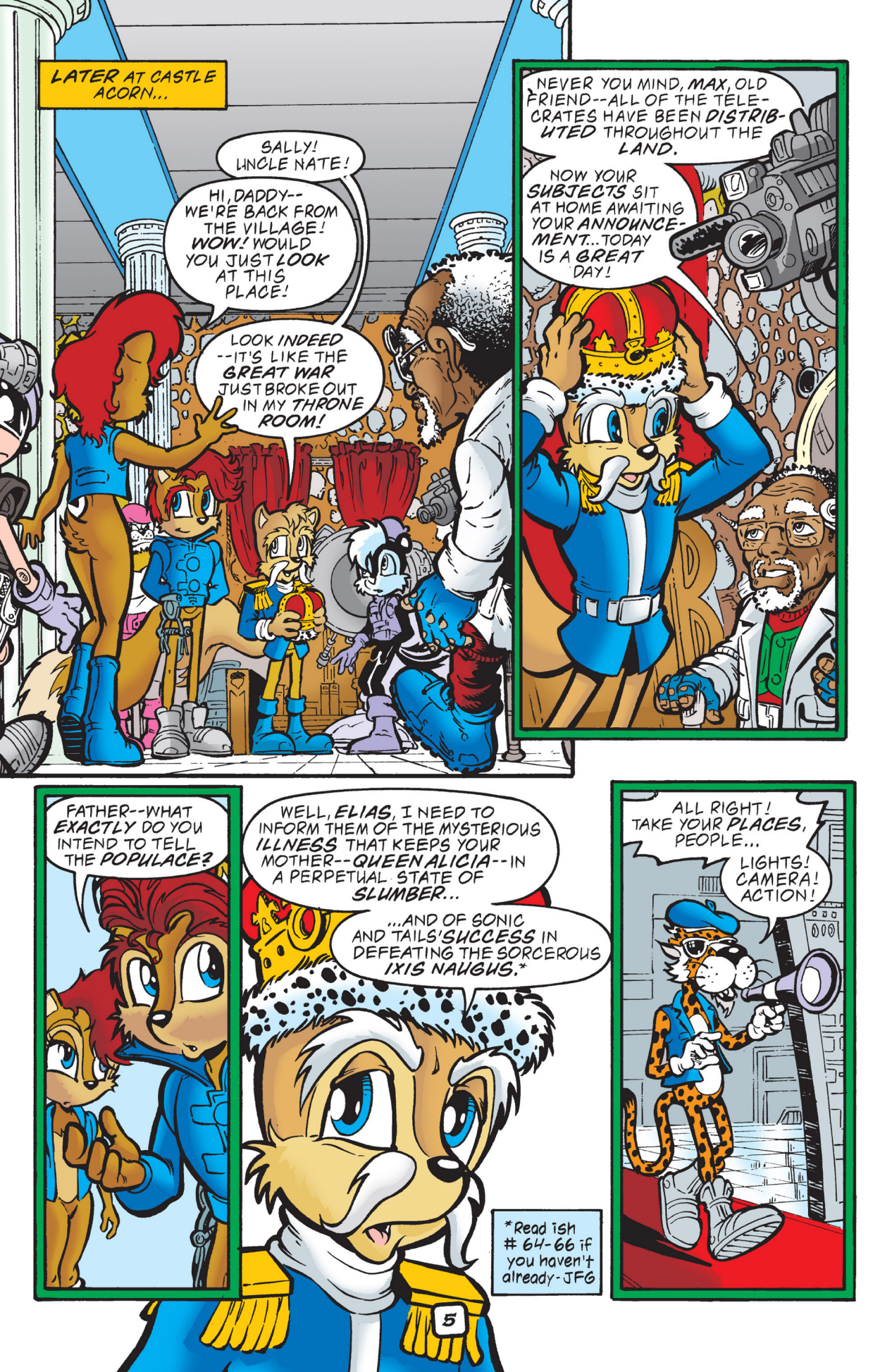
--WITH A FRESHLY FORGED BATCH O' *POWER RINGS!*

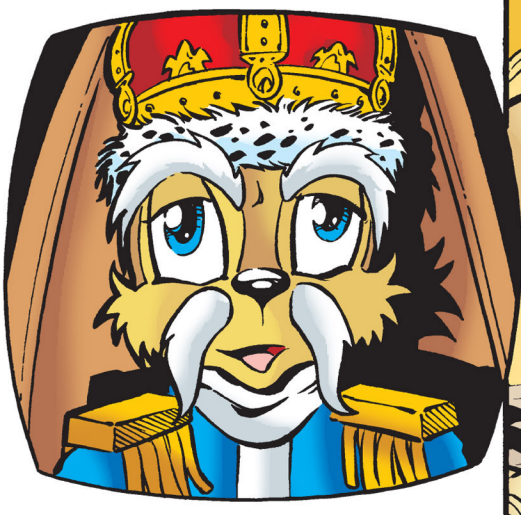
HOME SWEET HOME

2

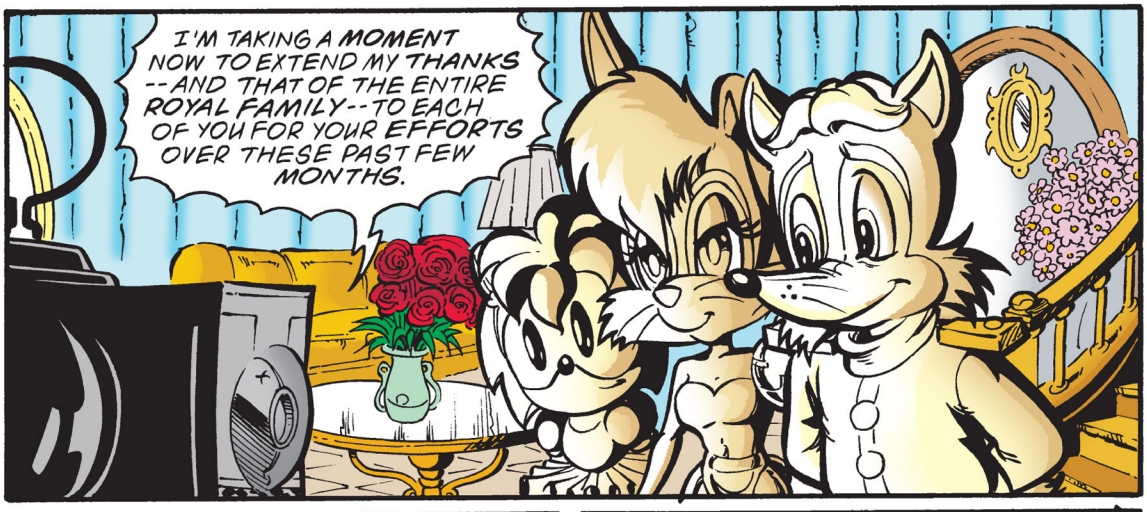
3


IT TOOK US A LITTLE OVER TWO WEEKS TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE WAS A TELECRATE FOR EVERY HOME HERE IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
...AND IN OUR CAPITAL CITY OF MOBOTROPOLIS.
OTHERWISE, HOW WOULD ALL THE CITIZENS IN THIS--THE KINGDOM OF ACORN--SEE AND HEAR KING MAX'S ADDRESS LATER ON THIS EVENING?
"MUST BE REALLY IMPORTANT IF EVERYBODY GETS A NEW HUNK O' HARDWARE BY ROYAL DECREE, huh? WHAT'S YOUR DAD GOT TO SAY ANYWAY, SALLY?
EVEN I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE, SONIC--I ONLY KNOW THAT I HAVE TO BE BACK AT THE CASTLE BY THE TIME HE SAYS IT!
Uhh... GUYS?
WELL, NOW THAT MY WORK WITH MR. MORGAN IS OVER, I FIGURED NOW WAS THE TIME TO GO SEARCHIN' FOR MY FOLKS.
THE LAST I SAW OF 'EM, THEY WERE BEIN' MIND CONTROLLED BY ROBUTTNIK UP IN THE ARCTIC.*
*Waaay back in ish#32-JFG
--WOW, ROTE--
--CAN'T BELIEVE IT--
--TOTALLY FORGOT--
--GOOD LUCK--
"WE'LL MISS YOU!"

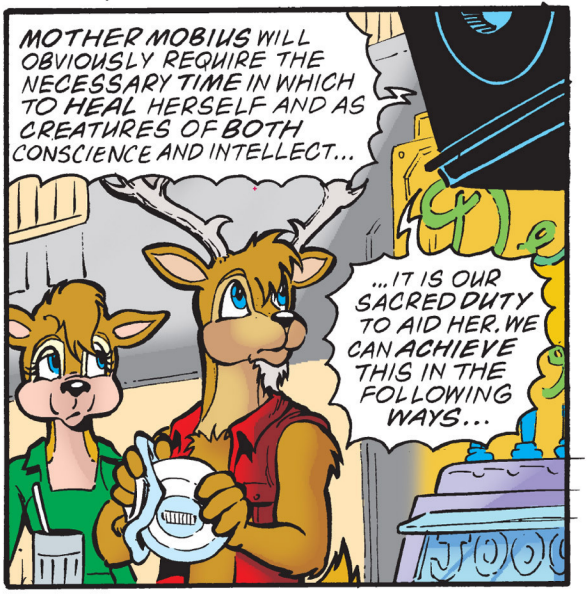

LATER AT CASTLE ACORN...
SALLY! UNCLE NATE!
HI, DADDY-- WE'RE BACK FROM THE VILLAGE! WOW! WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
LOOK INDEED --IT'S LIKE THE GREAT WAR JUST BROKE OUT IN MY THRONE ROOM!
NEVER YOU MIND, MAX, OLD FRIEND--ALL OF THE TELE-CRATES HAVE BEEN DISTRIB-UTED THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
NOW YOUR SUBJECTS SIT AT HOME AWAITING YOUR ANNOUNCE-MENT...TODAY IS A GREAT DAY!
FATHER--WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU INTEND TO TELL THE POPULACE?
WELL, ELIAS, I NEED TO INFORM THEM OF THE MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS THAT KEEPS YOUR MOTHER--QUEEN ALICIA--IN A PERPETUAL STATE OF SLUMBER...
...AND OF SONIC AND TAILS' SUCCESS IN DEFEATING THE SORCEROUS IXIS NAUGUS.*
*Read ish # 64-66 if you haven't already- JFG
ALL RIGHT! TAKE YOUR PLACES, PEOPLE...
LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!
5

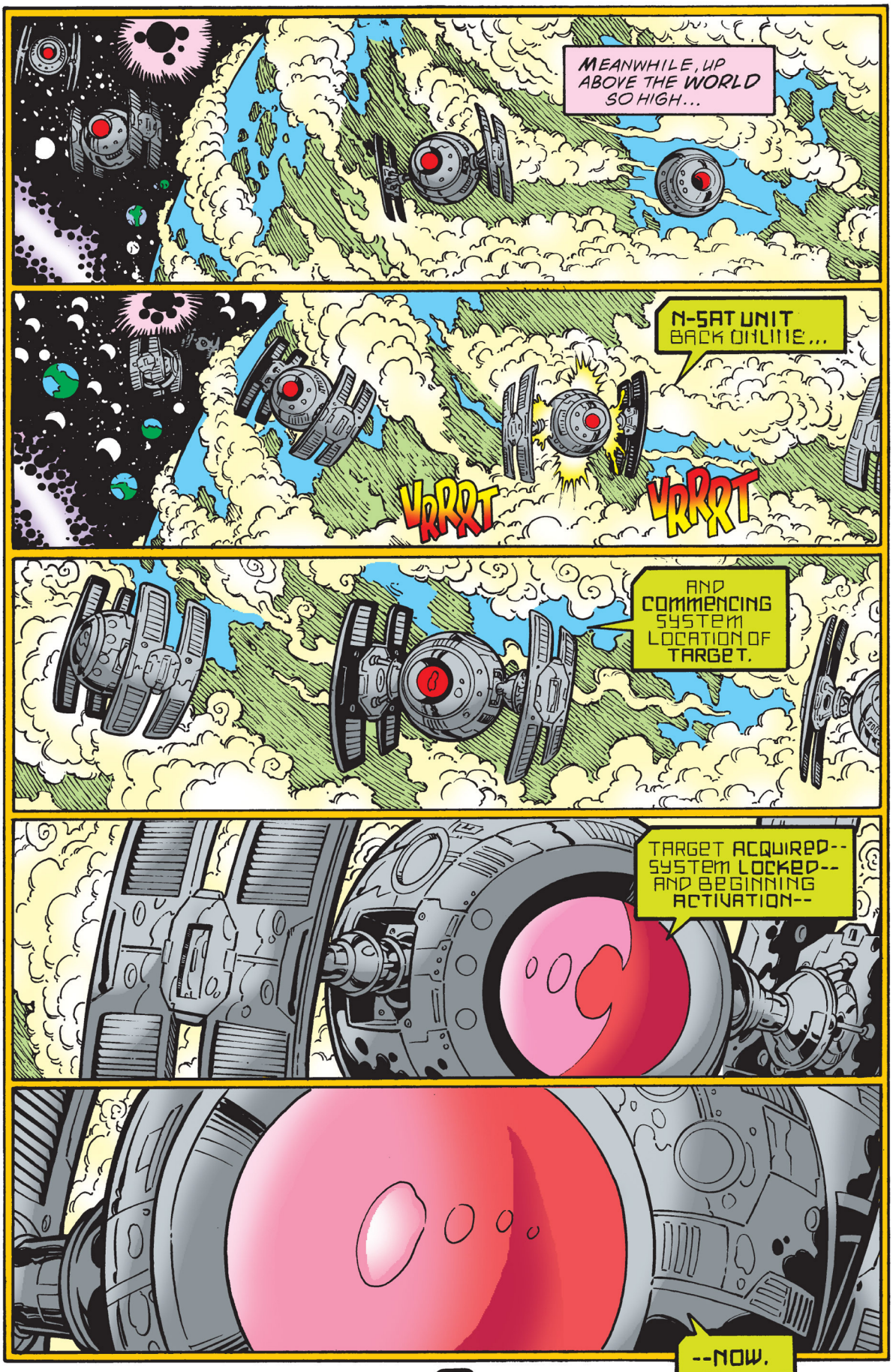


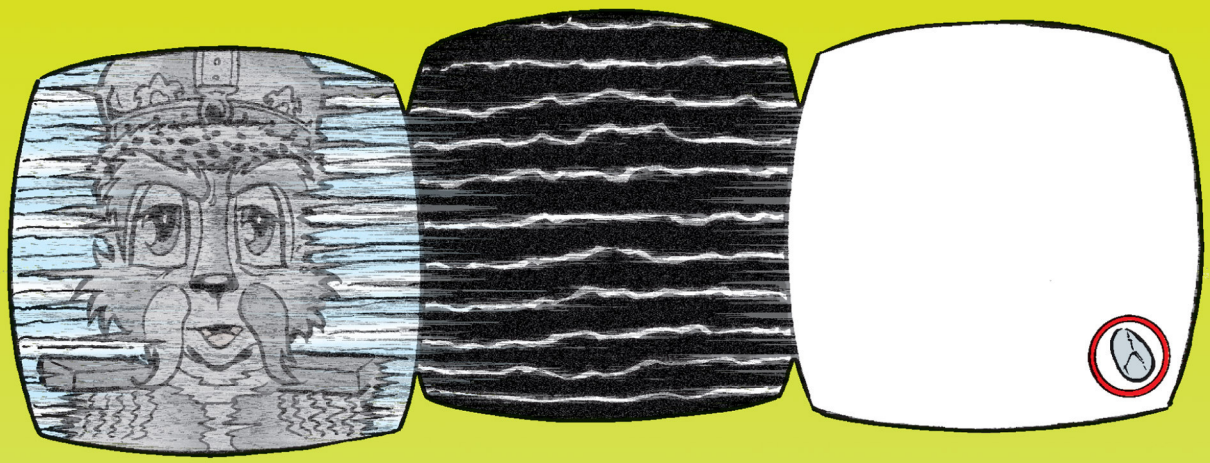
"GOOD EVENING, KINGDOM OF ACORN --THIS IS KING MAXIMILLIAN ACORN! IT'S BEEN A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE RESTORATION OF OUR BEAUTIFUL MOBOTROPOLIS..."


I'M TAKING A MOMENT NOW TO EXTEND MY THANKS --AND THAT OF THE ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY--TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS OVER THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.

BUT, ALTHOUGH WE'VE MANAGED TO CLEAN UP OUR CITY OUTWARDLY, ROBOTNIK'S FACTORIES HAVE AFFECTED ITS ECOSYSTEM ON A FAR DEEPER LEVEL.
I HAD UMA STEAL ONE OF THESE BOXES FOR THIS!?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!


MOTHER MOBIUS WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE THE NECESSARY TIME IN WHICH TO HEAL HERSELF AND AS CREATURES OF BOTH CONSCIENCE AND INTELLECT...
...IT IS OUR SACRED DUTY TO AID HER. WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS...


MEANWHILE, UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH...
N-SAT UNIT BACK ONLINE...
VRRRT
VRRRT
AND COMMENCING SYSTEM LOCATION OF TARGET.
TARGET ACQUIRED-- SYSTEM LOCKED-- AND BEGINNING ACTIVATION--
--NOW.

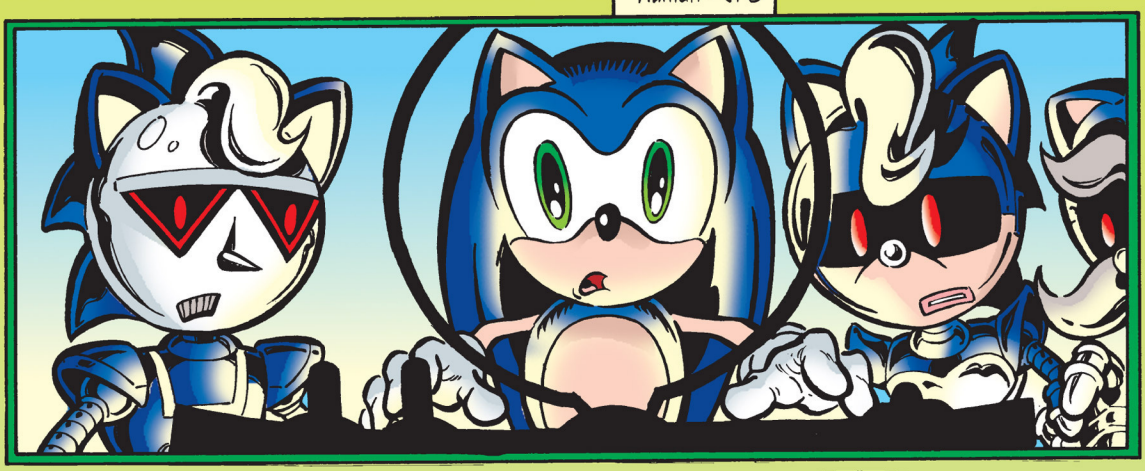


"... A NEW **GOLDEN AGE** IN WHICH =SQWAAAK= HOPE TO =SQWAAAK="

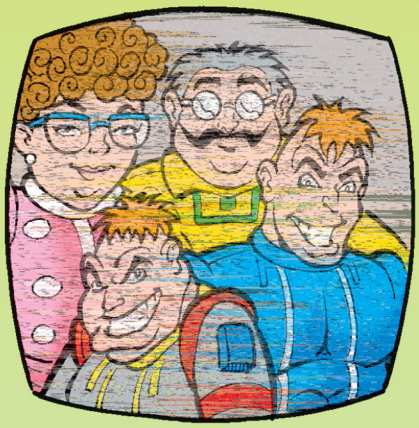
...

"**K-BOT** PRESENTS, FOR THE FIRST AND **ONLY** TIME, THE ILLUSTRIOUS **BIOGRAPHY** OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED **SUPER-SCIENTIST** KNOWN TO ANY NIT-WIT WITH HALF A **BRAIN CELL** AS... **DOCTOR ROBOTIK--** THE GREATEST **OVERLANDER*** WHO EVER LIVED!

*Human – JFG

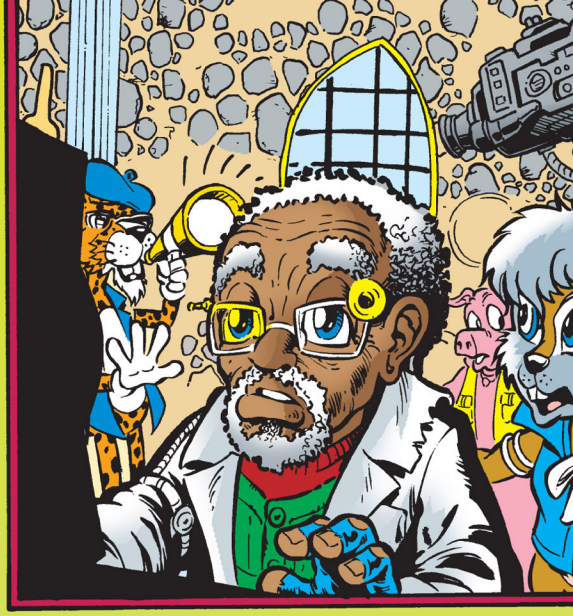


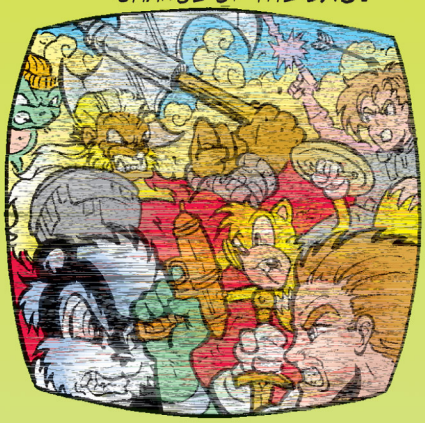
"BORN INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS **HOUSE OF IVO** IN THE YEAR-- WELL, Er... LET'S NOT DISCUSS WHAT YEAR IT WAS-- **JULIAN KINTOBOR** WAS OBVIOUSLY **DESTINED** TO MAKE A LASTING **IMPRESSION.**



"JULIAN WAS THE SOLE **SON** IN THE KINTOBOR **CLAN** TO BE **BLESSED** BY AN ASTOUNDING **INTELLECT**... A BROADER **BRAIN CAPACITY**... AND-- (BY THE BY, HE ALSO HAD AN **ANNOYING** BROTHER NAMED **COLIN**)."

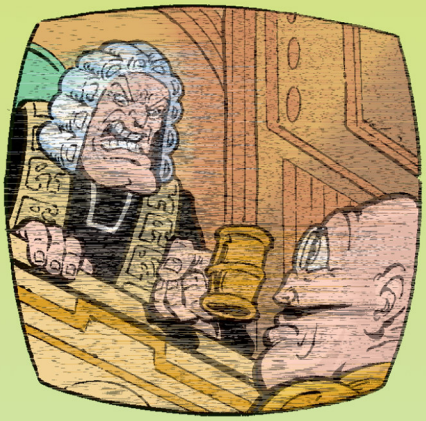
"ANYWAY... AS THE YEARS WENT ON, HIS BODY GREW TO MATCH HIS VAST I.Q. AND--AS A YOUNG MAN--HE BECAME ASSISTANT TO A LOCAL GEO-PHYSICIAN IN THE CITY OF MEGAPOLIS--A NATHANIEL-SOMEBODY-OR-THE-OTHER. THOUGH IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE JULIAN HIMSELF WAS IN CHARGE OF THE LAB!





"THEN--OUT OF NOWHERE--THE FLEA-BITTEN, FURRY INHABITANTS THE OVERLANDERS WERE FORCED TO SHARE THE PLANET WITH... BEGAN THE GREATEST WAR EVER SEEN (I FORGET THE NAME OF IT...)!

"THE MINISTRY OF CONFLICT CALLED UPON EVERY GENIUS IN MEGAPOLIS TO DEVISE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. JULIAN DID BETTER--HE CREATED A DEVICE CALLED THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR! ALL THAT WAS NEEDED TO POWER IT WAS A RARE MINERAL ORE...

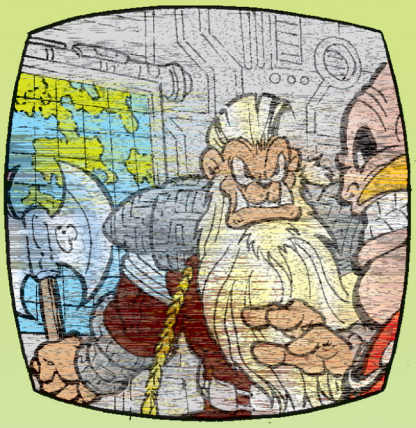


"...THAT WAS NEVER RECEIVED. INSTEAD OF PRAISING THE MISUNDERSTOOD INTELLECTUAL--COLIN KINTOBOR, NOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE--FOOLISHLY PUNISHED HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS (COME ON... WAS IT REALLY SO BAD THAT JULIAN HAD INTENDED TO USE HIS OWN PEOPLE AS TEST SUBJECTS FOR THE GHASTLY GADGET?).

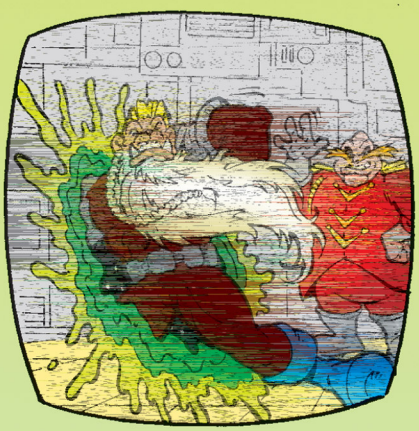
"RATHER THAN ENDURING THE TEN-YEAR IMPRISONMENT TO WHICH HIS TRAITOROUS BROTHER HAD SENTENCED HIM, JULIAN USED HIS CUNNING TO EFFECT A HEROIC ESCAPE BEYOND THE MOBIAN BADLANDS..."

"...WHERE HE WAS FOUND BY TWO MOBIAN **SAVAGES**. THEY DIDN'T DO HIM ANY **HARM**--THEY WERE HEDGEHOGS--NO **REAL** THREAT! AS A MATTER OF **FACT**...

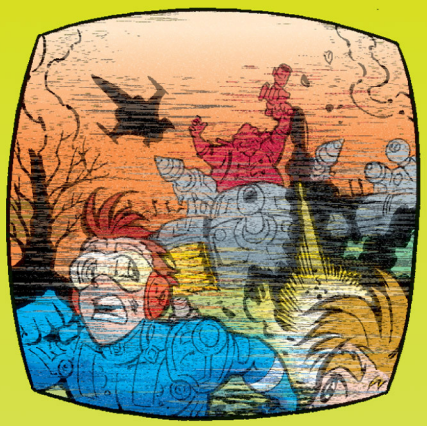
"...THEY TOOK HIM TO THEIR **LEADER**--KING MAX! NOW HERE WAS A **SUCKER** WHO COULD SPOT GREATNESS IN A **SPLIT-SECOND**. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE OL' MAXIE PRACTICALLY HANDED OVER CONTROL OF HIS **REALM** TO JULIAN!



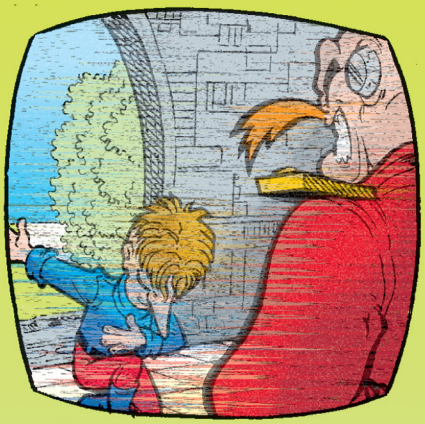
"FIRST THAT WASH-UP OF A **WARLORD**--**KODOS**--WAS ORDERED TO INSTRUCT THE NEW **ARRIVAL** IN THE ART OF WARFARE. AFTER ALL, WHO KNEW THE OVERLANDERS' **WEAKNESSES** BETTER THAN JULIAN?



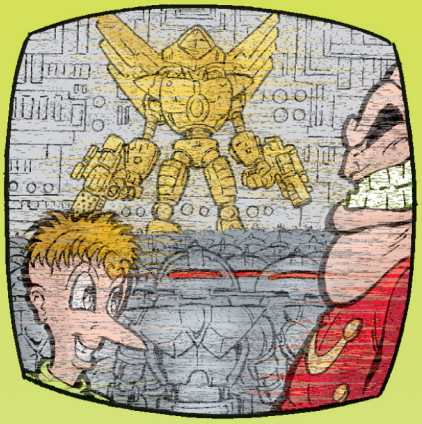
"AND SECOND, IT WAS JULIAN WHO **REPLACED** KODOS AFTER **LEARNING** EVERYTHING HE HAD TO **TEACH**. GO AHEAD AND **ASK** YOURSELVES--WASN'T **HE** THE BEST **MAN** FOR THE **JOB?**"



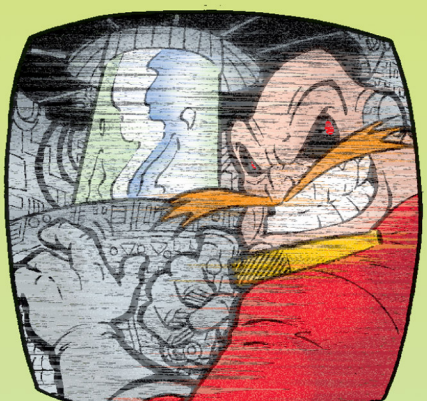
"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE INFERIOR MOBIAN GROUND TROOPS HAD THE NECESSARY BRAINS AND BRAWN REQUIRED TO SHIFT THE WAR IN MOBOTROPOLIS' FAVOR.



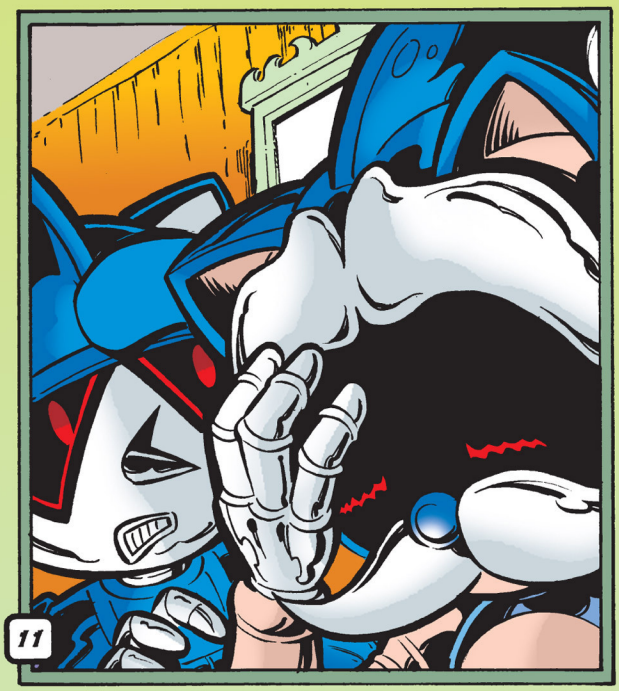
"DAYS LATER, JULIAN'S DIM-WIT NEPHEW--SNIVELY--ARRIVED AT THE WAR MINISTRY BUILDING TO PLEDGE HIS ALLEGIANCE TO HIS UNCLE.

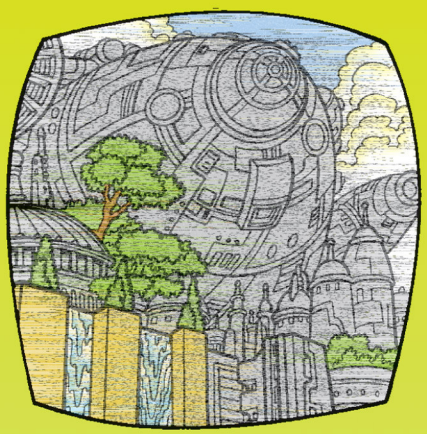


"BUT JULIAN--NEVER CONTENT TO JUST REST ON HIS LAURELS--DECIDED THAT BEATING BACK THE OVERLANDERS WASN'T ENOUGH. HE DESIRED NOW TO REMODEL THE FACE OF MOBIUS. IT WOULD TAKE AN ARTIFICAL ARMY...

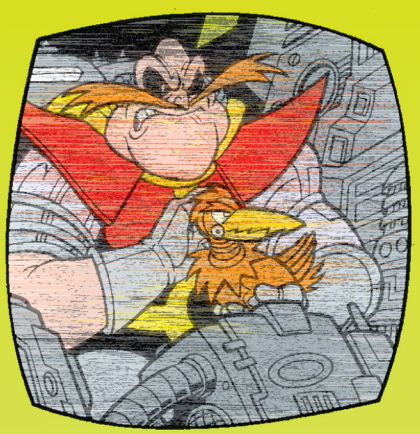


"...AND THE SABOTAGE OF SIR CHARLES HEDGEHOG'S ROBOTICIZER, A NEWLY-INVENTED DEVICE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP CURE THE WOUNDED."

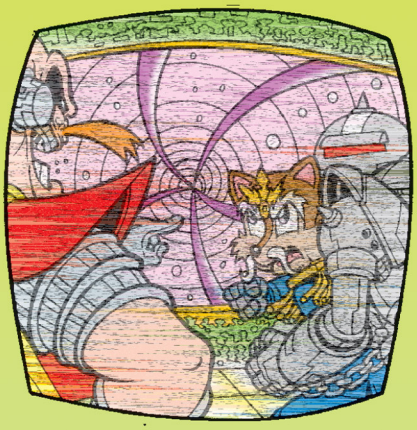




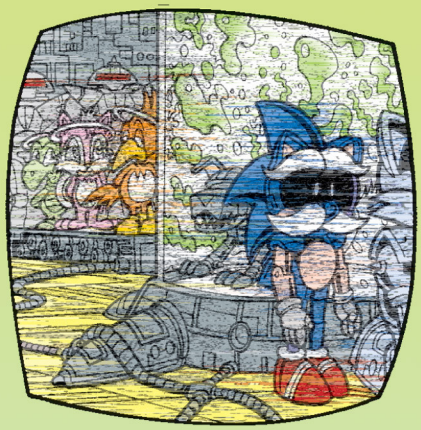
"AND SO, IT **WAS** ON THAT MORNING MORE THAN A **DECADE** AGO, A MASSIVE, METAL **FLAGSHIP** APPEARED OVER THE MOBOTROPOLIS **SKYLINE**, FOREVER ALTERING IT. AND WHO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS NEW **INDUSTRIAL AGE?** WAS IT JULIAN KINTOBOR? **NO**--IT WAS...



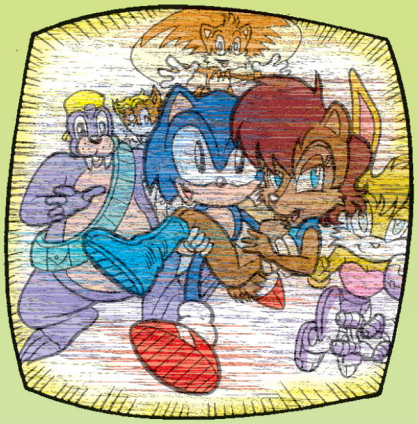
"...DOCTOR ROBOTNIK--THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC **MIND** OF ALL **TIME!**



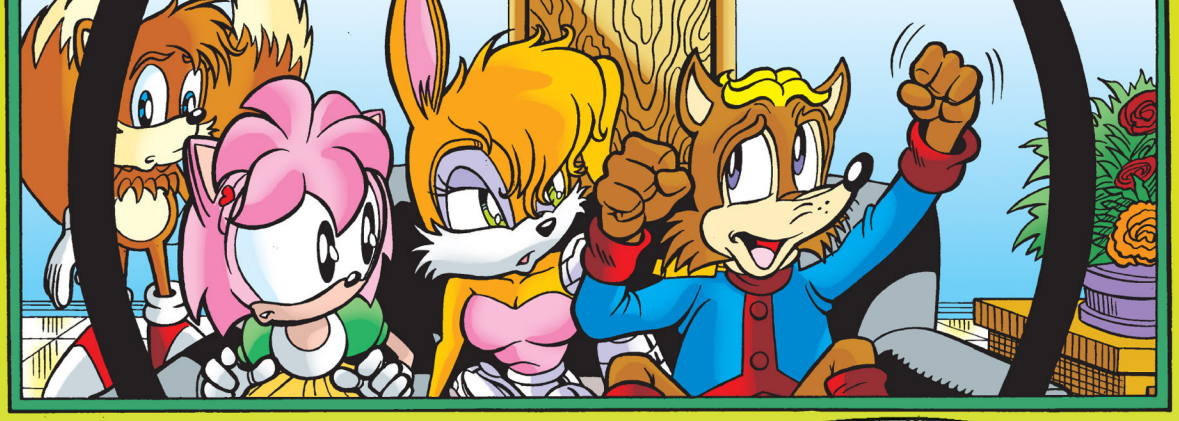
"BUT THERE WERE THE IGNORANT **FEW** WHO ADHERED TO THE WAYS OF **TRADITION** AND OPPOSED ROBOTNIK'S **REFORMS**--THEY WERE **DEALT** WITH...

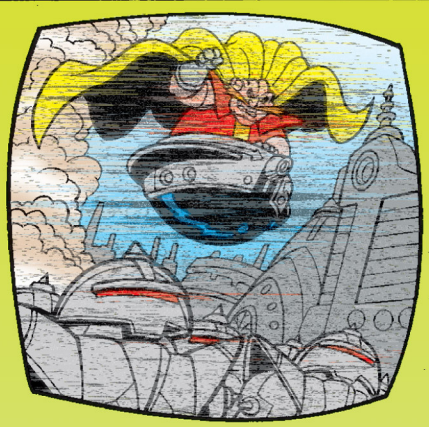


"...WHILE THE **OTHER** MOBIANS TOOK **ADVANTAGE** OF ALL THE NEW **JOBS** THAT THE GOOD DOCTOR HAD CREATED AND WILLINGLY **VOLUNTEERED** THEMSELVES TO UNDERGO THE **CHANGES** NEEDED TO WORK IN HIS POSH **FACTORIES.**

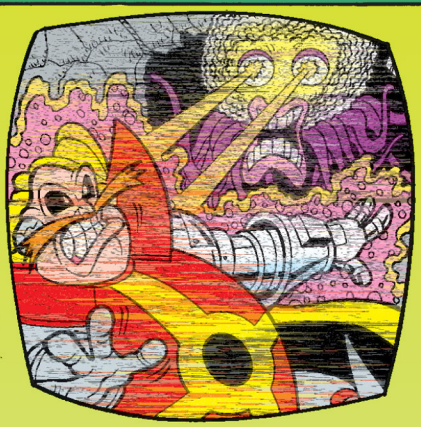


"AS IF BEING ABSOLUTE **RULER** OF AN ENTIRE WORLD WASN'T DIFFICULT **ENOUGH**, THERE WERE ALSO 'UPSTART **REBEL GROUPS** TO CONTEND WITH--NOTABLY, **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** AND HIS **RABBLE ROUSERS!**"



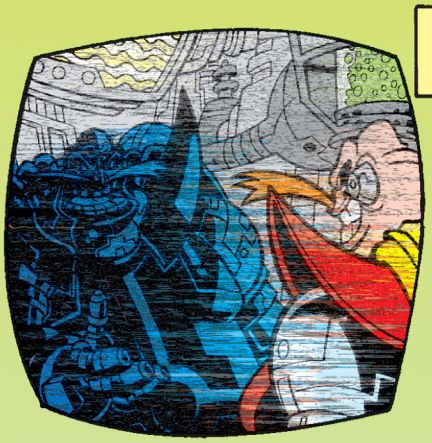


"AFTER TAKING A HOMETOWN **TRIP** TO THE OVERLANDER CITY OF MEGAPOLIS, ROBOTNIK WAS **SHOCKED** TO FIND THE LOCATION ENTIRELY **DESERTED.** TOO **BAD**--HE HAD BROUGHT THEM A **SURPRISE.**

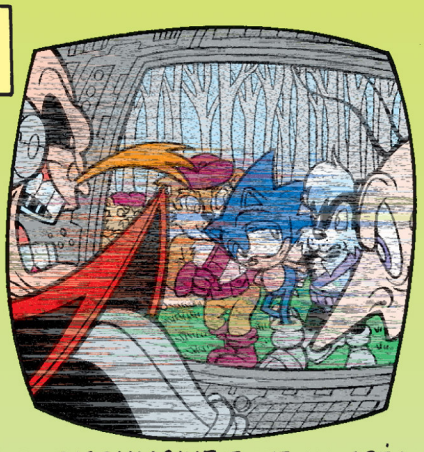


"SOME TIME **LATER,** IN ONE OF HIS MANY EFFORTS TO END THE **MENACE** THAT IS SONIC, DOCTOR ROBOTNIK WAS SEEMINGLY VAPORIZED BY HIS OWN **CREATION**--THE SYNTHETIC* BEING KNOWN AS **E.V.E.!**"**

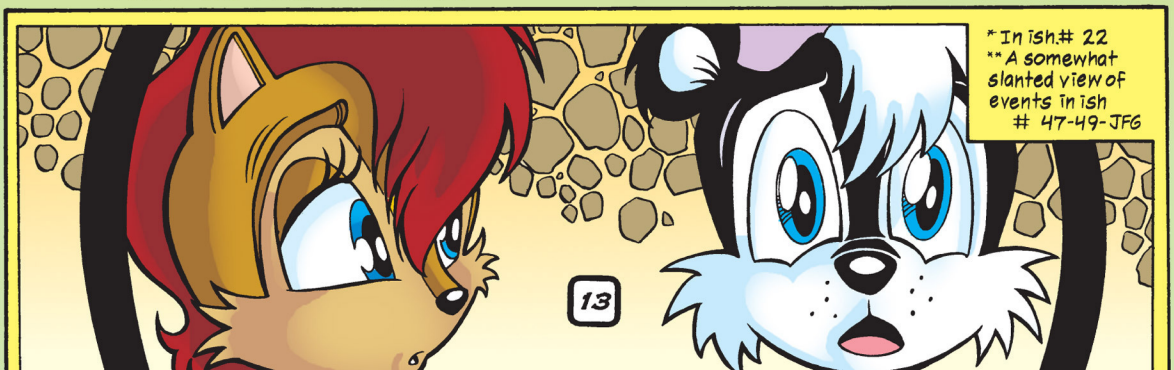
*Created by man.
**In the classic ish # 21- JFG



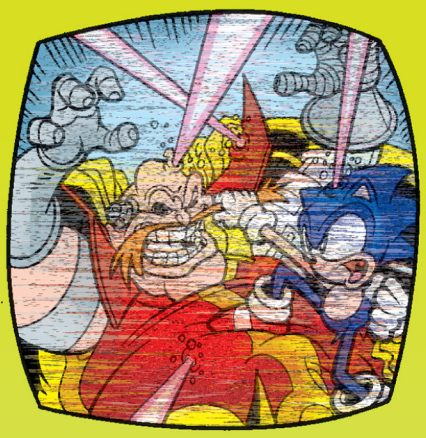
"BUT INSTEAD OF TRAVELING TO THE **AFTERLIFE,** HE FOUND HIMSELF **STRANDED** IN AN ALTERNATE **FUTURE** WHERE HE WOULD HAVE **REMAINED,** HAD HE NOT MET HIS **COUNTERPART** IN THAT **REALITY**--THE MECHANIZED **ROBO-ROBOTNIK!***

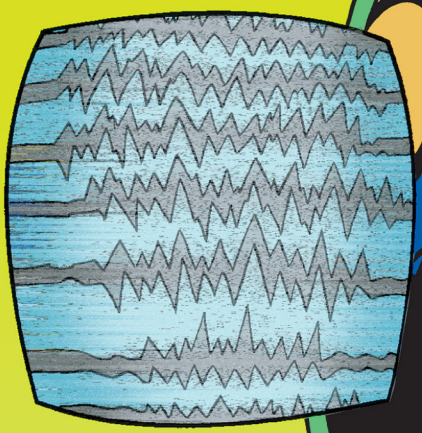


"NOW JUST **IMAGINE** IF THE ALL-**GREAT,** ALL-POWERFUL ROBO-ROBOTNIK HADN'T **RETURNED** JULIAN TO **ROBOTROPOLIS.** HE WOULD **NEVER** HAVE SEEN HIS ENEMY PUNISHED FOR THE ALLEGED **MURDER** OF SALLY ACORN.**



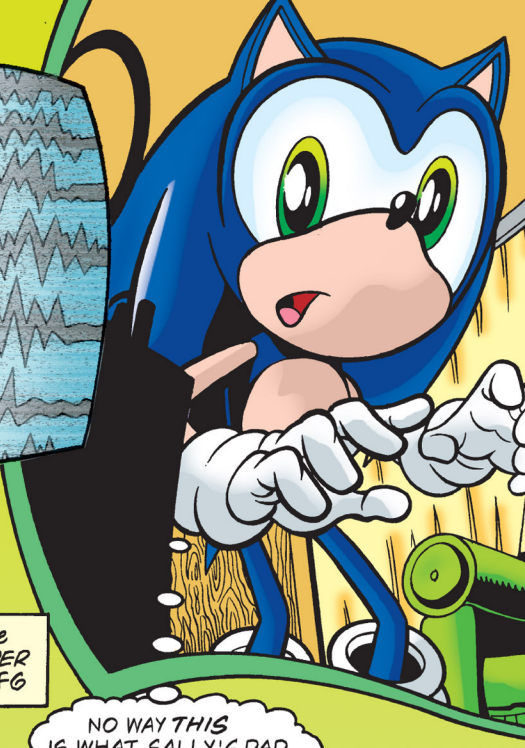
*In ish.# 22
**A somewhat slanted view of events in ish # 47-49- JFG





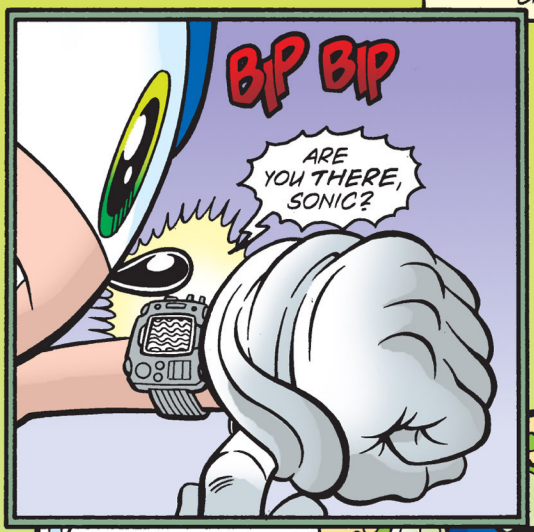
"BUT AS IS TRUE WITH SO MANY HISTORIC FIGURES, THE GOOD DOCTOR SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS PLANET-- PROTECTING HER FROM EVIL!* THIS HAS BEEN A SERVICE OF K-BOT-- THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT!"

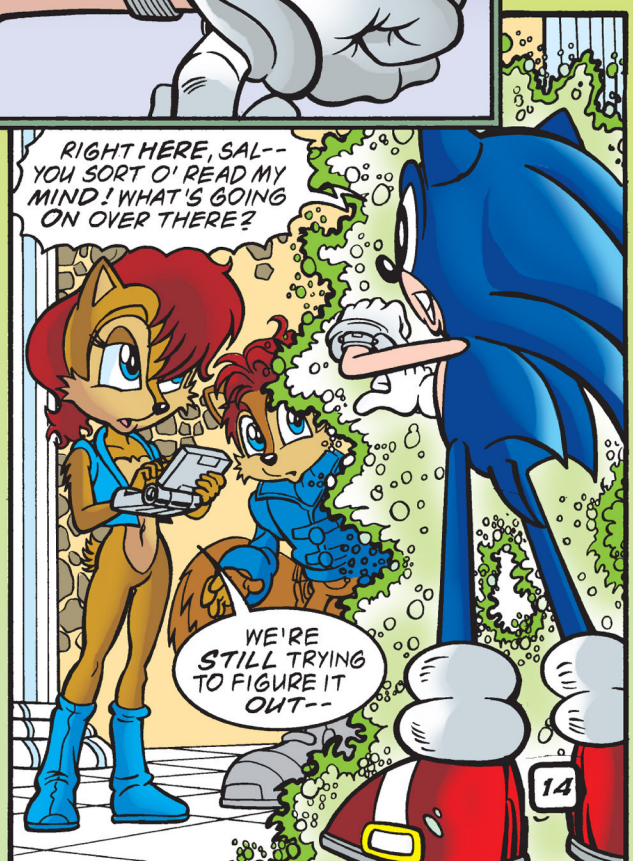
. . .

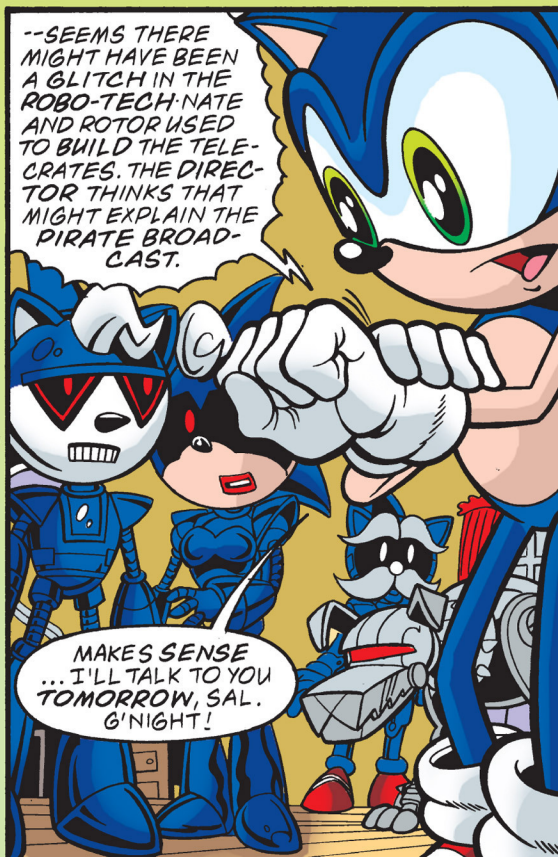


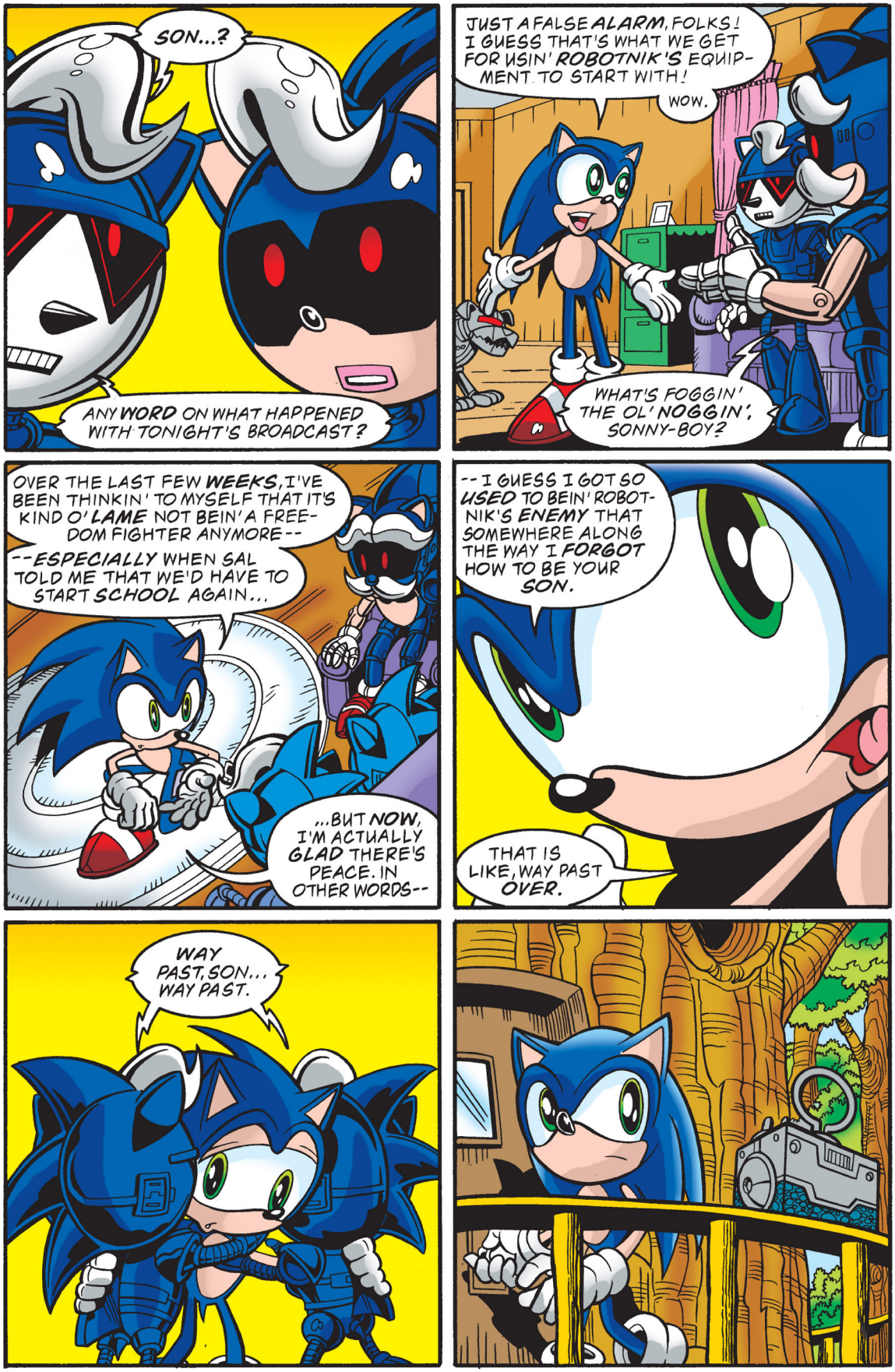
*One way of looking at the conclusion to SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #6.- JFG

NO WAY THIS IS WHAT SALLY'S DAD WANTED TO TELL US! I'D BETTER--

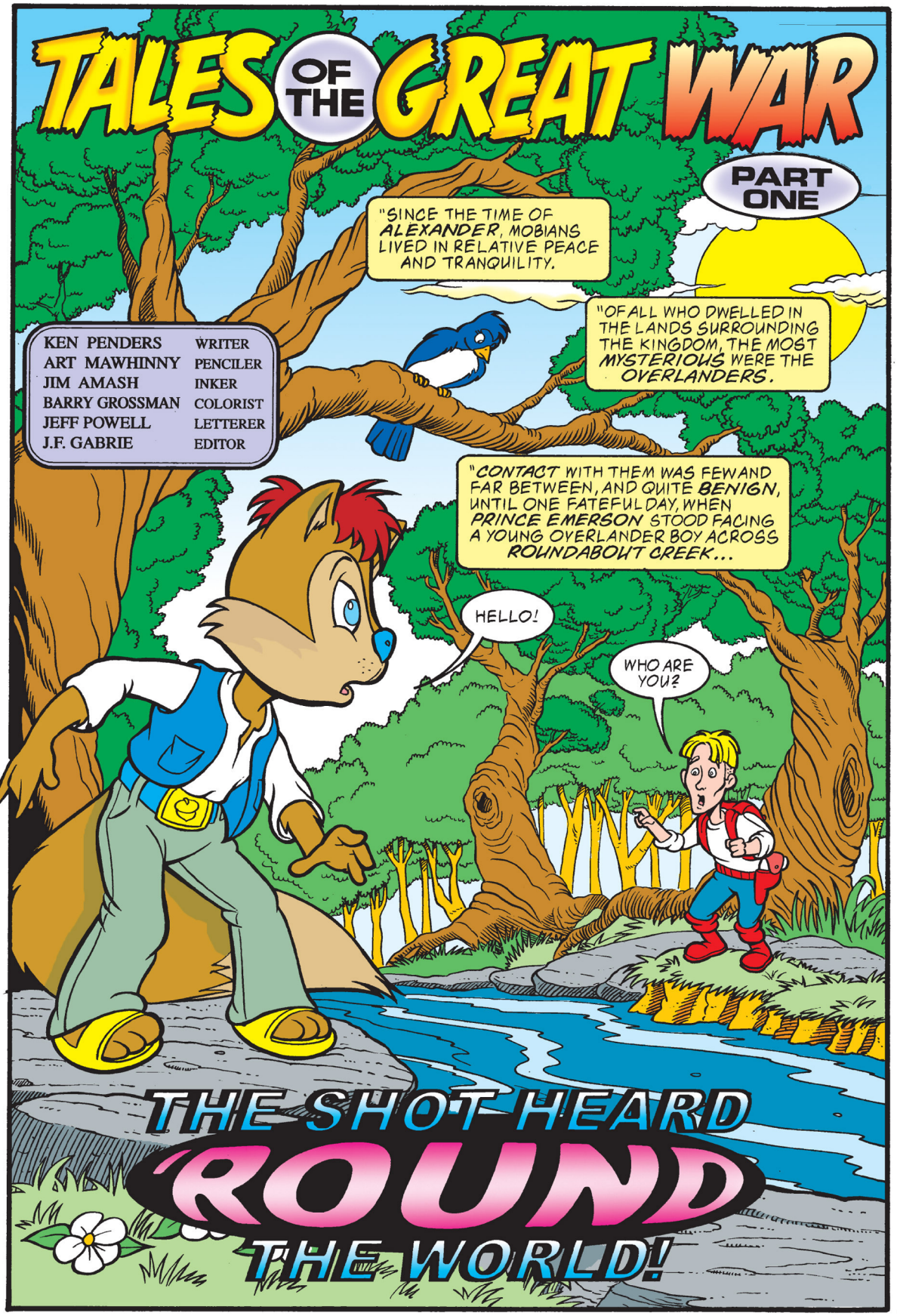


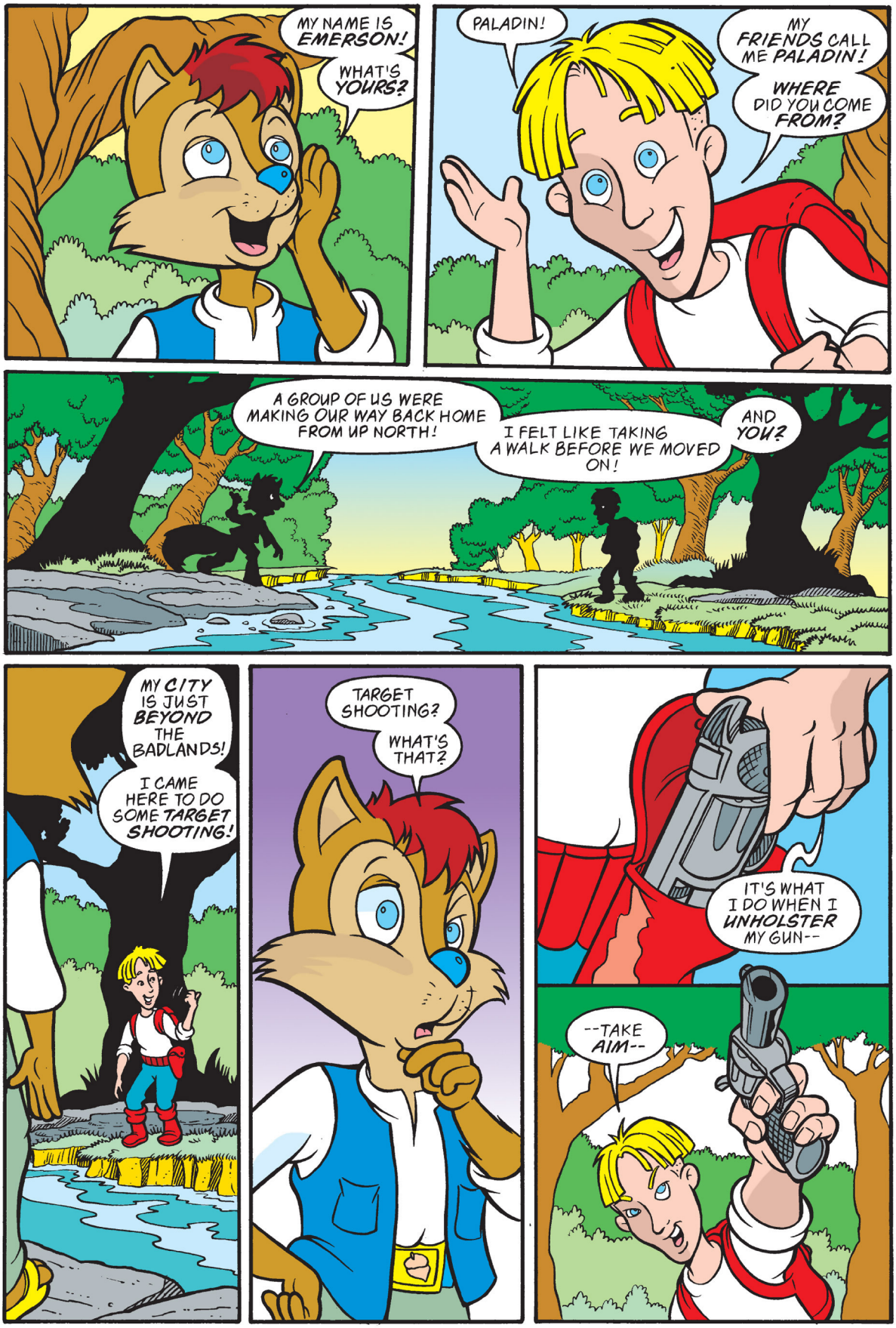


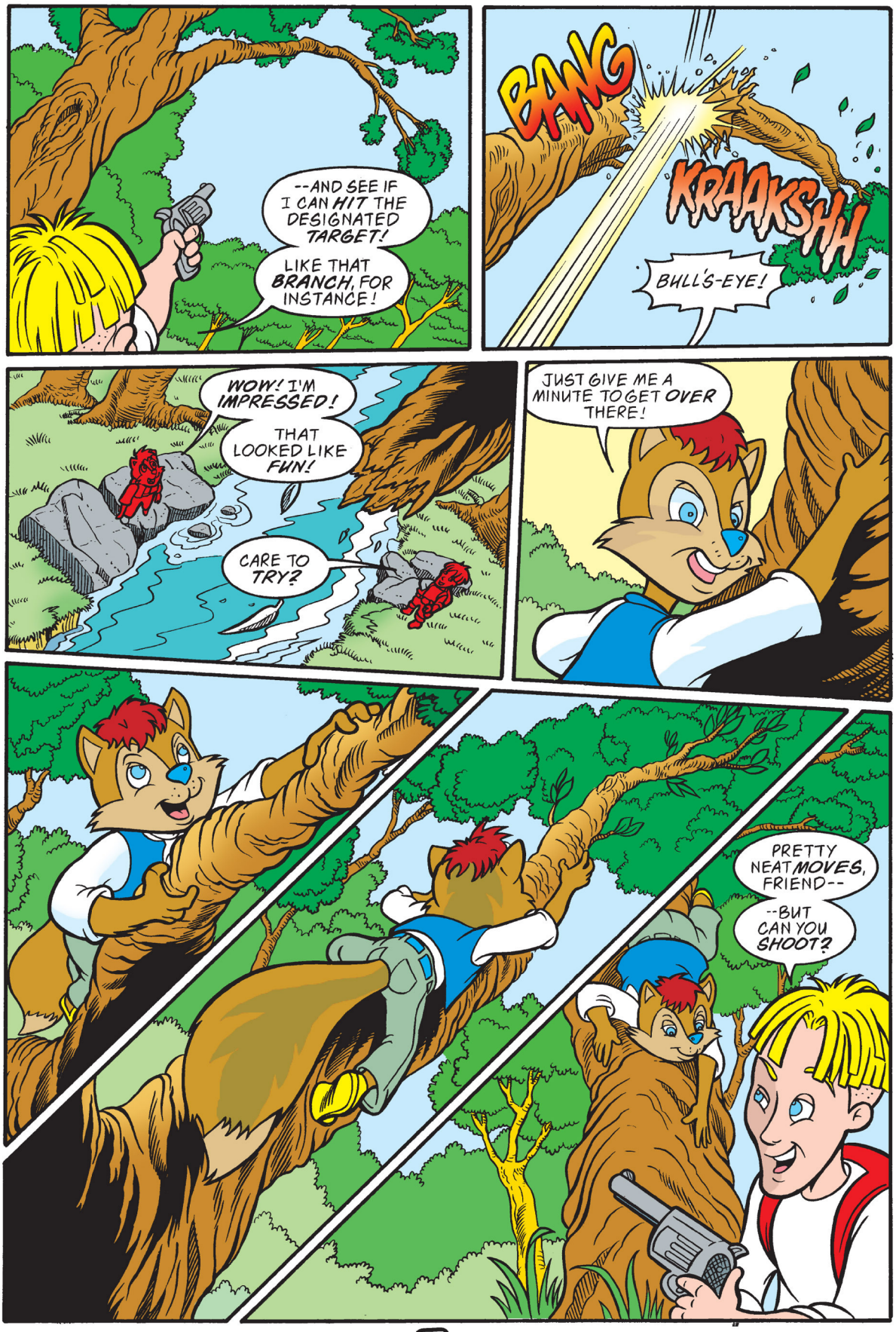

--SEEMS THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GLITCH IN THE ROBO-TECH·NATE AND ROTOR USED TO BUILD THE TELE-CRATES. THE DIREC-TOR THINKS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE PIRATE BROAD-CAST.
MAKES SENSE ... I'LL TALK TO YOU TOMORROW, SAL. G'NIGHT!


SON...?
ANY WORD ON WHAT HAPPENED WITH TONIGHT'S BROADCAST?
JUST A FALSE ALARM, FOLKS! I GUESS THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR USIN' ROBOTNIK'S EQUIPMENT TO START WITH!
WOW.
WHAT'S FOGGIN' THE OL' NOGGIN', SONNY-BOY?
OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' TO MYSELF THAT IT'S KIND O' LAME NOT BEIN' A FREEDOM FIGHTER ANYMORE--
--ESPECIALLY WHEN SAL TOLD ME THAT WE'D HAVE TO START SCHOOL AGAIN...
...BUT NOW, I'M ACTUALLY GLAD THERE'S PEACE. IN OTHER WORDS--
--I GUESS I GOT SO USED TO BEIN' ROBOTNIK'S ENEMY THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY I FORGOT HOW TO BE YOUR SON.
THAT IS LIKE, WAY PAST OVER.
WAY PAST, SON... WAY PAST.

AND SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM KNOTHOLE...
WELL, WELL, WELL, SNIVELY... IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT THE DENIZENS IN THE KINGDOM OF ACORN DID NOT--
--UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS YOUR TREACHERY THAT CAUSED YOUR UNCLE'S UNFORTUNATE DEMISE. FOR THAT, I BRAND YOU... A TRAITOR!
NO--NOT YOU?!
SEE YOU IN THIRTY DAYS!

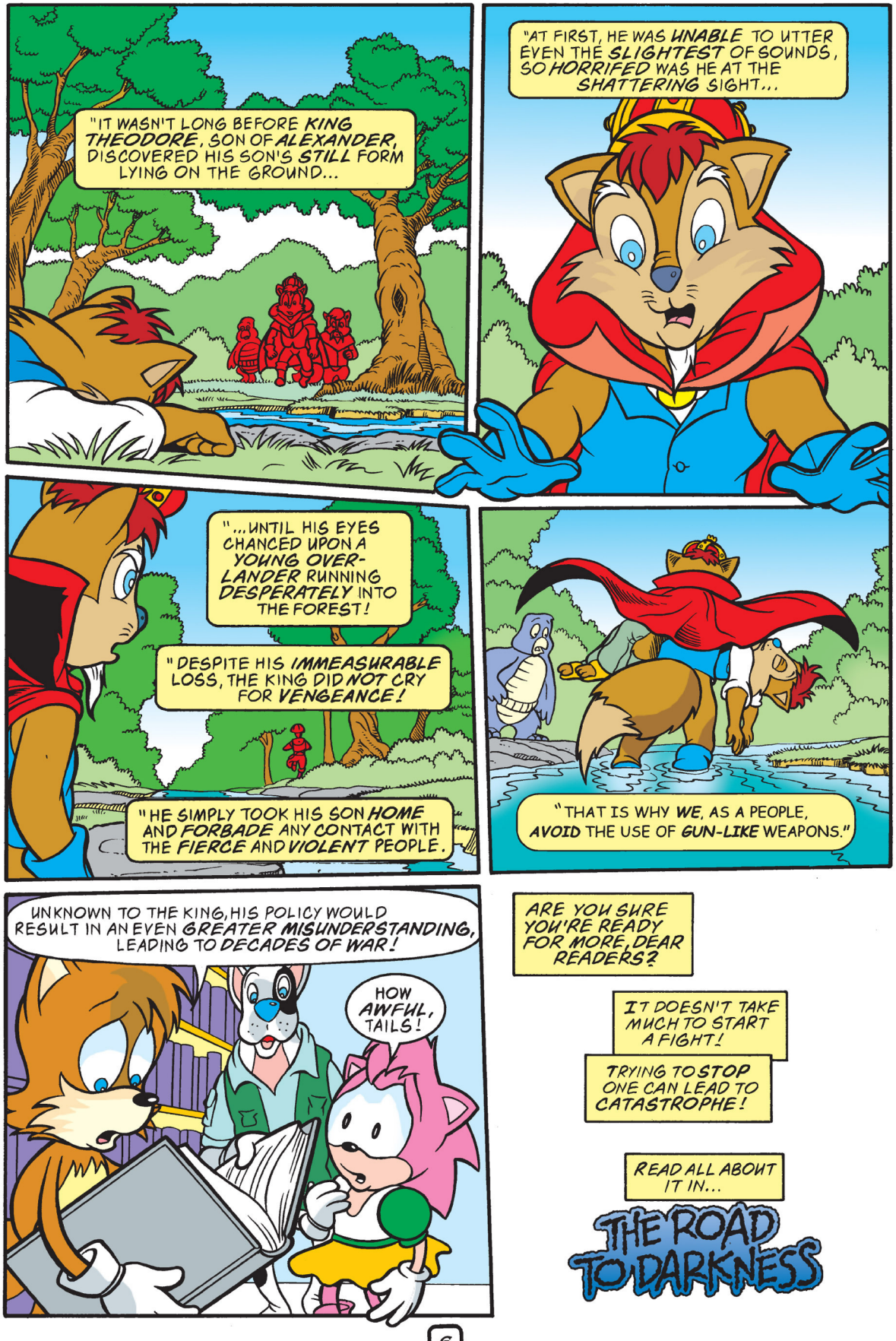

TALES OF THE GREAT WAR
PART ONE
"SINCE THE TIME OF ALEXANDER, MOBIANS LIVED IN RELATIVE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.
"OF ALL WHO DWELLED IN THE LANDS SURROUNDING THE KINGDOM, THE MOST MYSTERIOUS WERE THE OVERLANDERS.
KEN PENDERS WRITER
ART MAWHINNY PENCILER
JIM AMASH INKER
BARRY GROSSMAN COLORIST
JEFF POWELL LETTERER
J.F. GABRIE EDITOR
"CONTACT WITH THEM WAS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, AND QUITE BENIGN, UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY, WHEN PRINCE EMERSON STOOD FACING A YOUNG OVERLANDER BOY ACROSS ROUNDABOUT CREEK...
HELLO!
WHO ARE YOU?
THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD!


MY NAME IS EMERSON!
WHAT'S YOURS?
PALADIN!
MY FRIENDS CALL ME PALADIN!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
A GROUP OF US WERE MAKING OUR WAY BACK HOME FROM UP NORTH!
I FELT LIKE TAKING A WALK BEFORE WE MOVED ON!
AND YOU?
MY CITY IS JUST BEYOND THE BADLANDS!
I CAME HERE TO DO SOME TARGET SHOOTING!
TARGET SHOOTING?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S WHAT I DO WHEN I UNHOLSTER MY GUN--
--TAKE AIM--


--AND SEE IF I CAN HIT THE DESIGNATED TARGET!
LIKE THAT BRANCH, FOR INSTANCE!
BANG
KRAAKSHH
BULL'S-EYE!
WOW! I'M IMPRESSED!
THAT LOOKED LIKE FUN!
CARE TO TRY?
JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE TO GET OVER THERE!
PRETTY NEAT MOVES, FRIEND--
--BUT CAN YOU SHOOT?

THIS DEVICE IS HEAVIER THAN IT LOOKS!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
SIMPLY POINT IT AT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHOOT--
LIKE THAT BRANCH UP THERE?
YEAH!
THEN WHAT?
THEN YOU PULL THE TRIGGER!
LIKE THIS?
BLAM M
I FORGOT TO WARN YOU ABOUT THE RECOIL!
IT FELT LIKE I WAS GETTING KICKED BY MY STREAKING PASHA!
HERE!
Y'KNOW WHAT'S REALLY FUN TO SHOOT AT?
SOMETHING CHALLENGING--
--SOMETHING THAT MOVES--

--LIKE THAT BIRD!
NOOOOOOO
BANG
SHOULD-- NEVER-- TAKE THE LIFE-- OF A-- LIVING-- CREATURRRRR...
NO! DON'T DIE ON ME!
THE BIRD WAS THE TARGET!
NOT YOU! NOT YOU!
EMERSON!


"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE KING THEODORE, SON OF ALEXANDER, DISCOVERED HIS SON'S STILL FORM LYING ON THE GROUND...
"AT FIRST, HE WAS UNABLE TO UTTER EVEN THE SLIGHTEST OF SOUNDS, SO HORRIFED WAS HE AT THE SHATTERING SIGHT...
"...UNTIL HIS EYES CHANCED UPON A YOUNG OVER-LANDER RUNNING DESPERATELY INTO THE FOREST!
"DESPITE HIS IMMEASURABLE LOSS, THE KING DID NOT CRY FOR VENGEANCE!
"HE SIMPLY TOOK HIS SON HOME AND FORBADE ANY CONTACT WITH THE FIERCE AND VIOLENT PEOPLE.
"THAT IS WHY WE, AS A PEOPLE, AVOID THE USE OF GUN-LIKE WEAPONS."
UNKNOWN TO THE KING, HIS POLICY WOULD RESULT IN AN EVEN GREATER MISUNDERSTANDING, LEADING TO DECADES OF WAR!
HOW AWFUL, TAILS!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY FOR MORE, DEAR READERS?
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO START A FIGHT!
TRYING TO STOP ONE CAN LEAD TO CATASTROPHE!
READ ALL ABOUT IT IN...
THE ROAD TO DARKNESS